

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00696 01 OF 02 151502Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /087 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2570
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0696

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM USREP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: DEC 15 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

THE 157TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, AND
LAST OF THE THIRTEENTH ROUND, WAS HELD ON DECEMBER 15 UNDER
THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF BELGIAN REP (SMILDEREN). US REP AND
SOVIET REP (TARASOV), WHOSE PRESENTATION IS REPORTED BY
SEPTEL, DELIVERED THE ONLY FORMAL STATEMENTS. AT THE
OUTSET OF HIS STATEMENT, US REP BRIEFLY NOTED THAT THE ROUND
HAD UNFORTUNATELY NOT BROUGHT PARTICIPANTS ANY CLOSER
TO AGREEMENT ON MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, BUT THAT NONE-
THELESS CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE TOWARD
ACHIEVING AGREED ARRANGEMENTS FOR A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF
DATA. THE BALANCE OF THE STATEMENT CONTRASTED THE
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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00696 01 OF 02 151502Z

MANNER IN WHICH THE WESTERN APPROACH TO REDUCTIONS AND
LIMITATIONS TOOK GEOGRAPHIC REALITIES INTO DUE
ACCOUNT WITH THE FAILURE OF THE EASTERN APPROACH TO DO
SO. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE US STATEMENT, THE FULL
TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

1. WHILE THE CURRENT ROUND HAS UNFORTUNATELY NOT BROUGHT

PARTICIPANTS CLOSER TO AGREEMENT ON MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, USEFUL WORK WAS DONE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF DATA.

2. IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS ACHIEVED TOWARD AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT, WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HOPE THAT THE ACTUAL EXCHANGE OF FURTHER DATA WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. A PRINCIPLE REASON FOR THE LACK OF PROGRESS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES IS THAT THE EAST STILL AVOIDS TAKING DUE ACCOUNT OF THE RELEVANCE OF GEOGRAPHY TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. GEOGRAPHY MUST BE FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IF MUTUALLY AGREED GOALS ARE TO BE ATTAINED.

5. THE CENTRAL GEOGRAPHIC FACT IN THIS REGARD IS THAT THE SOVIET UNION, WHOSE LARGE AND POWERFUL FORCES LOCATED ON ITS HOME TERRITORY WOULD NOT BE LIMITED AS TO SIZE BY AN AGREEMENT, IS DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO THE REDUCTION AREA.

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00696 02 OF 02 151503Z
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
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USNMR SHAPE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0696

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM USREP MBFR

6. THE COMPARABLE POWER ON THE WESTERN SIDE--THE UNITED STATES--IS, IN CONTRAST, 5,000 KILOMETERS AND AN OCEAN AWAY FROM THE AREA.

7. EASTERN REPS PERSIST IN INCORRECTLY ARGUING THAT GEOGRAPHY WAS FULLY DEALT WITH IN THE PREPARATORY TALKS WHEN, IN FACT, WESTERN PARTICIPANTS RESERVED THEIR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.

8. EASTERN REPS HAVE ALSO ENGAGED IN UNCONVINCING ATTEMPTS TO MINIMIZE EASTERN GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGES.

9. THE EASTERN FAILURE TO TAKE PROPER ACCOUNT OF GEOGRAPHY WOULD SEEM TO HELP EXPLAIN THE INEQUITABLE EASTERN APPROACH TO REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00696 02 OF 02 151503Z

10. THAT APPROACH IGNORES THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE IN THE IMPACT OF OBLIGATIONS ON PARTICIPANTS WITH ONLY A PART OF THEIR FORCES IN THE AREA AND ON PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE VIRTUALLY ALL THEIR FORCES IN THE AREA.

11. THE WESTERN POSITION, UNLIKE THAT OF THE EAST, TAKES PRACTICAL ACCOUNT IN A NUMBER OF WAYS OF THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTINCTIONS AMONG PARTICIPANTS.

12. EASTERN APPEALS FOR AN AGREEMENT IN THE INTEREST OF DETENTE CANNOT BE RECONCILED WITH AN EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH WHICH SEEKS TO ENHANCE EASTERN GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGES AT THE EXPENSE OF WESTERN SECURITY.

13. EASTERN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE DIRECT RELEVANCE OF GEOGRAPHY TO THE OBLIGATIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN A REDUCTION AGREEMENT WOULD ADVANCE EFFORTS TO ARRIVE AT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT.RESOR

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